

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A method of ~~configuring~~ routing packets by a networking device, comprising:

- generating a first forwarding table;
- generating a second forwarding table;
- programming a filter to perform a first lookup operation in the first forwarding table if a first field value of a received packet meets one or more conditions of a first set of conditions;
- programming the filter to initiate a second lookup operation in the second forwarding table if the first field value does not meet one or more conditions of the first set of conditions;
- receiving a particular packet;
- determining, by the filter, whether the first field value of the particular packet meets the one or more conditions of the first set of conditions;
- performing the first lookup operation in the first forwarding table, without performing the second lookup operation in the second forwarding table, to identify a first egress port, of the networking device, when the first field value of the particular packet

meets the one or more conditions;

performing the second lookup operation in the second forwarding table,
without performing the first lookup operation in the first forwarding table, to identify a
second egress port, of the networking device, when the first field value of the particular
packet does not meet the one or more conditions; and

forwarding the particular packet to the identified first egress port or the
identified second egress port.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, where the generating a first forwarding table comprises generating a first forwarding table containing an entry corresponding to a first label switched path.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, where the generating a second forwarding table comprises generating a second forwarding table containing an entry corresponding to a second label switched path.

13-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A networking device comprising:

a memory for storing a first forwarding table and a second forwarding table;

a filter programmed to initiate a lookup operation in the first forwarding table if a first field value of a header contained in a received packet meets a first set of

conditions and to initiate a lookup operation in the second forwarding table if the first field value does not meet one or more conditions of the first set of conditions;

a plurality of ingress interfaces for receiving packets;

a plurality of egress interfaces for transmitting packets,

where each of the lookup operations results in an identification of an egress interface from which the received packet is to be transmitted.

18. (previously presented) The networking device of claim 17, where the first forwarding table contains an entry corresponding to a first label switched path.

19. (previously presented) The networking device of claim 18, where the second forwarding table contains an entry corresponding to a second label switched path.

20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) In a router containing a plurality of forwarding tables, a method of packet forwarding, comprising:

receiving a packet at an ingress interface;

classifying the received packet based on at least a first field value contained in the header of the packet;

associating one of the plurality of forwarding tables to the packet according to its classification;

performing a lookup operation in the associated forwarding table

according to at least a second field value contained in the header of the packet;

determining an egress interface based on the lookup operation; and

transmitting the received packet from the determined egress interface.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, where the classifying comprises determining whether the first field value meets one or more criteria.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, where the classifying further comprises assigning a default classification if none of the criteria are met.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, where a first forwarding table contains an entry corresponding to a first label switched path.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, where the first forwarding table contains an entry corresponding to a second label switched path.

26. (currently amended) In a networking device, a method of forwarding packets, comprising:

classifying a received packet based on information contained in the packet;

selecting one of a plurality of forwarding tables based on the classification of the received packet;

performing a lookup operation using the selected forwarding table; [[and]]

determining an egress interface for the packet based on the performed lookup operation; and

forwarding the packet to the egress interface.

27. (currently amended) A method of ~~configuring~~ routing packets by a networking device, comprising:

generating a first forwarding table including information identifying a first plurality of egress interface ports;

generating a second forwarding table including information identifying a second plurality of egress interface ports;

programming a filter to initiate a first lookup operation in the first forwarding table if a first field value of a received packet meets one or more conditions of a first set of conditions;

programming the filter to initiate a second lookup operation in the second forwarding table if a first field value does not meet one or more conditions of the first set of conditions ~~meets one or more conditions of a second set of conditions;~~

receiving a particular packet;

determining, whether the first field value of the particular packet meets the one or more conditions of the first set of conditions;

performing the first lookup operation in the first forwarding table, without performing the second lookup operation in the second forwarding table, to identify a first egress port of the first plurality of egress interface ports, of the networking device, when the first field value of the particular packet meets the one or more conditions;

performing the second lookup operation in the second forwarding table, without performing the first lookup operation in the first forwarding table, to identify a second egress port of the second plurality of egress interface ports, of the networking device, when the first field value of the particular packet does not meet the one or more conditions; and

forwarding the particular packet to the identified first egress port or the identified second egress port.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, where generating a first forwarding table comprises generating a first forwarding table containing an entry corresponding to a first label switched path.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, where generating a second forwarding table comprises generating a second forwarding table containing an entry corresponding to a second label switched path.

30-33. (canceled)